

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed July 18, 2008, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the following remarks and arguments are respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,806,988 (Onuki). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-13 are patentable Onuki for at least the following reasons.

At the outset, it is noted that there is no detailed rejection of claim 7, which was indicated to be allowable in the Office Action dated August 27, 2007. Clarification is respectfully requested.

As correctly noted on page 3 of the Final Office Action, Onuki does not disclose or suggest any the following features of independent claim 1, which are similarly included in independent claim 9, namely (illustrative emphasis provided):

means for monitoring the current supplied by the power source over time and deriving the charge supplied;

means (66) for monitoring the voltage on one (16) of the electrodes of the electrode arrangement; and  
means (62) for deriving from a desired lens power a value for controlling the total charge to be supplied to the electrode arrangement (14,16).

It is alleged that Onuki discloses (in FIG 9) control feedback loops of parameters such as a current and a voltage, and thus the above noted features of claims 1 and 9 are therefore obvious. It is respectfully submitted that, assuming arguendo that FIG 9 does show any feedback, which does not appear to be the case, any such feedback or control is merely related to controlling voltage levels. In particular, column 8, lines 53-56 specifically recite:

output voltage of the electric power supply 132 will be applied to the optical element 101 by the DC/DC converter 133, the amplifier 134 and the amplifier 135 with a desired voltage value, frequency and duty. (Emphasis added)

That is, at best, Onuki discloses and suggests to only monitor the voltage waveform provided to the optical element, namely, the "desired voltage value, frequency and duty" cycle. There are various ways to control an optical lens, where Onuki discloses one such way or method of control, namely by controlling the voltage value, frequency and duty cycle of a voltage waveform applied to electrodes of the optical element.

Such a disclosure in no way suggests monitoring the current supplied by the power source over time and deriving the charge supplied and deriving, from a desired lens power, a value for controlling the total charge to be supplied to the electrode, as recited in independent claims 1 and 9.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 9 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-8 and 10-13 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 9, as well as their individually patentable elements. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

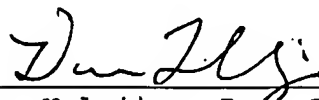
For example, column 8, lines 63-67 of Onuki merely discloses that a rectangular voltage waveform, as shown in FIG 8D, is applied between transparent electrode 103 and a sticklike electrode 125. This in no way discloses or suggest deriving a ratio of the charge supplied to the voltage, as recited in claims 2 and 10. Further, providing an effective electrode height as input into a look-up-table, and providing as output the ratio of the charge supplied to

the voltage, as recited in claims 5 and 13, are nowhere disclosed or suggested in Onuki. FIG 10 of Onuki merely discloses a look-up table for reading out a desired duty ratio (S123-S124) for the output voltage from the power supply.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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